

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A lubricant which comprises an aqueous solution containing _____ a saccharide in an amount of 0.5-30% by mass based on the total amount of the aqueous solution, _____ said saccharide comprising a sucrose and a disaccharide caramel an amount of 0.2-20% by mass based on the amount of the sucrose, and _____ sodium laurate and/or potassium laurate in an amount of 0.001-1% by mass based on the total amount of the aqueous solution.

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled).

5. (Original) A lubricant according to claim 1 which contains potassium sorbate in an amount of 0.1-3% by mass based on the total amount of the aqueous solution.

Claims 6-8 (Cancelled).

9. (Original) A lubricant according to claim 1 which contains benzotriazole or an alkali metal salt thereof

in an amount of 0.1-3% by mass based on the total amount of the aqueous solution.

Claims 10-12 (Cancelled).

13. (Original) A lubricant according to claim 5 which contains benzotriazole or an alkali metal salt thereof in an amount of 0.1-3% by mass based on the total amount of the aqueous solution.

Claims 14-16 (Cancelled).